

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /075 W

-----071305 261459Z /53

R 261325Z AUG 77

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WAHDC 6620

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY BABORONE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JOHANNESBURG 2271

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SF

SUBJECT: BANTU EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TAKES OVER SOWETO SECONDARY SCHOOLS

REF: JOHANNESBURG 2191

1. MINISTER OF BANTU EDUCATION M.C. BOTHA ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY (AUGUST 25) SOWETO EDUCATION SECONDARY SCHOOLS WOULD BE CLOSED AND REOPENED AS GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS AFTER A PERIOD OF "RE-REGISTRATION". (REFTEL)

BOTHA SAID, "THE SCHOOL BOARDS HAVE LOST COMPLETE CONTROL OVER PUPILS WITH THE RESULT THAT THEIR BEHAVIOR HAS BECOME RIOTOUS.

IT IS CLEAR THAT THE PRESENT SITUATION IN THE SCHOOLS IS NOT CONDUCIVE TO A REGULATED SOCIETY AND IT IS DETRIMENTAL TO THE EDUCATION OF STUDENTS EAGER TO CONTINUE WITH THEIR STUDIES".

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2. THE SOWETO MOVE, AFFECTING 27000 PUPILS, WILL SPECIFICALLY (1) WITHDRAW STATE SUBSIDIES OF STATE SCHOOLS; (2) SCRAP ALL LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS; (3) CLOSE ALL COMMUNITY SCHOOLS; AND (4) INSTITUTE GOVERNMENT(BANTU AFFAIRS) HIGH SCHOOLS IN THEIR PLACE. TEACHERS WILL BE RETAINED BUT ALL STUDENTS WILL HAVE TO APPLY FOR RE-ADMISSION.

3. IN AN APPARENTLY UNRELATED DEVELOPMENT, THE 1800 MEMBER STUDENT BODY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE NORTH HAS BEEN ORDERED TO LEAVE THE CAMPUS FOLLOWING A TWO-DAY BOYCOTT OVER FOOD AND THE EXPULSION OF A STUDENT FOR ALLEGED CHEATING.

4. COMMENT: BOTHA'S MOVE IS CLEARLY DESIGNED TO REASSERT CONTROL OVER WHAT THE SAG REGARDS AS AN UNRULY STUDENT BODY AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIONS THAT ARE EITHER UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO IMPROVE DISCIPLINE. WHETHER THE STUDENTS WILL PAY ANY HEED TO THE NEW SCHOOL SYSTEM IS OPEN TO QUESTION, BUT IT APPEARS THE SAG HAD FEW ALTERNATIVES IF IT HOPES TO RESTORE SOWETO CLASSES TO NORMAL.  
JOHNSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, SECONDARY SCHOOLS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 JOHANNESBURG 2191  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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